

October 15, 2015

To the Citizens of Royal Oak, City Manager and City Commission,

After very careful consideration of my personal and professional commitments and the fact that I am coordinating my mother's long-term care as she prepares to leave a Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, I have made the very hard decision to resign from the Royal Oak City Commission. Serving as a Commissioner is essentially a volunteer role, and I have devoted on average 25 hours per month to that role for the past three years, I have decided continuing on in this role is not in my best interest at this time. My work is also very busy and demanding, and my family comes first.

For the past three years, I have been happy to have volunteered with other caring community members as founder of Royal Oak SAFE (Suicide Prevention is For Everyone); as the commissioner on the Royal Oak Crime Prevention Council, where I worked with the council to reignite neighborhood watch meetings through a Safe Neighborhoods Community Dialogue with state, county and local law enforcement officials and community organizations in 2012, which resulted in an annual Safe Neighborhoods City-wide Block Parties in 2013 and 2014; and as the commission member of the Royal Oak Animal Shelter and Royal Oak Youth Assistance, where I helped to raise funds and awareness for these important initiatives.

Now and in the future, I will continue to contribute my talent and energy as time permits to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Royal Oak SAFE's research study with Beaumont Health System. I will also encourage other community members to advocate for the health and wellness of the people of Royal Oak; to advocate for the Master Plan to be upheld; and to advocate for a balanced downtown and community-at-large. As always, I encourage residents of all ages, backgrounds and walks of life to be involved in these issues, as they are the predominant tax base in Royal Oak.

I have always been a proud citizen of Royal Oak, and will continue to be. Despite the fact that the city has lost a number of great retailers over the past year, it is my hope that it will restore its balance, following some of our neighboring cities. It is no secret that I object to recent large footprint developments involving liquor licenses that will make it even that much harder to recruit and retain a retail base; the retroactive rezoning from neighborhood compatible "Mixed Use" to incompatible "General Industrial" on East Lincoln, a predominantly residential street; and the decision to turn part of Knowles into a Truck Route, all in my opinion, are in violation of the Master Plan. The Master Plan was carefully developed to allow for smooth transition from commercial or industrial to residential, and I am seeing too many instances of residential encroachment. Lastly, I will always be there to the extent possible for the Royal Oak Animal Shelter as a donor and volunteer.

As I will still be a resident, I would like to hear from my constituents.

Sincerely yours,

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